

Muskie

Catch and Release

Hooking and catching a muskie can be the thrill of a lifetime...



...but what do you do once you get this toothy giant to the boat? A large, fighting, toothy fish with a lure in its mouth can be difficult to release without harming the fish or yourself!

Here are some tips for safe boat-side release

1. Have a needle-nose pliers or similar tool to grab the lure with. Jaw spreaders and hook cutters can also be helpful.



3. A muskie can be measured in the water with a floating ruler or in a measuring cradle.



2. The lure can be removed in the water while holding the fish in a net or by the base of the tail.

5. Once your fish is free from the lure, it can be eased from the water for a quick photo. Be sure to keep the fish horizontal and carefully support its body.

4. Be careful not to touch the fish's gills. They are easily damaged.



6. When releasing your fish, hold it by the tail until it is capable of swimming away under its own power.